

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY
PCT
INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT
(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference PL70047PC00	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/SE 03/01646	International filing date (day/month/year) 24.10.2003	Priority date (day/month/year) 28.11.2002
International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC F16F9/54		
Applicant STRÖNSHOLMEN AB et al		

<p>1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.</p> <p>2. This REPORT consists of a total of 5 sheets, including this cover sheet.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).</p> <p>These annexes consist of a total of sheets.</p>
<p>3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Basis of the opinion II <input type="checkbox"/> Priority III <input type="checkbox"/> Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability IV <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of unity of invention V <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement VI <input type="checkbox"/> Certain documents cited VII <input type="checkbox"/> Certain defects in the international application VIII <input type="checkbox"/> Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 24.06.2004	Date of completion of this report 09.08.2004
Name and mailing address of the International preliminary examining authority:  European Patent Office D-80298 Munich Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465	Authorized Officer Hytrowski, P Telephone No. +49 89 2399-2858 

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I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **elements** of the international application (*Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17)*):

Description, Pages

1-6 as published

Claims, Numbers

1-18 as published

Drawings, Sheets

1/5-5/5 as published

2. With regard to the **language**, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:

- the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of the international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- contained in the international application in written form.
- filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- the description, pages:
- the claims, Nos.:
- the drawings, sheets:

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5. This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)).

(Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.)

6. Additional observations, if necessary:

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	1-18
	No: Claims	
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	1-18
	No: Claims	
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	1-18
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

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Re Item V

Reasoned statement with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

The closest prior art is represented by a flanged connection according to figure 1 and is analysed in the description from page 1, line 26 to page 2, line 20.

The flanged connection of the this prior art discloses the features of the preamble of independent claims 1 and 10.

No document of the prior art discloses the entire features of claims 1 or 10.

The subject-matter of claims 1 and 10 is therefore new (Article 33(2) PCT).

The drawback with a flanged connection according to figure 1 is that after a certain operating time the fastening no longer sits firmly secured to the gas-filled spring and the C-shaped groove will thereby become deformed. This deformation of the C-shaped groove can have a negative effect on the strength of the gas-filled spring and a further negative effect that the incorrect positioning/inclination of the gas-filled spring can lead to increased wear both of the gas-filled spring and the tool in which the gas-filled spring is fitted.

The problem to be solved may therefore be regarded as improving the flanged connection and the method of fixing a gas-filled spring in a machine tool in order to eliminate the above drawback.

With the fixing element having a clamping function proposed in claims 1 and 10, the flange connection is more able to cope with the reaction forces and load cycles that occur when the gas-filled spring is compressed.

No document of the prior art shows or suggests such a fixing element in a flanged connection.

The solution proposed in claims 1 and 10 of the present application is therefore considered as involving an inventive step (Article 33(3) PCT).

Claims 2 to 9 and 11 to 18 are dependent on device claim 1 and method claim 10 respectively and as such also meet the requirements of the PCT with respect to novelty and inventive step.

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